

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of forming a scaffolding plank from two or more wooden boards, comprising:

positioning a plurality of wooden boards in side to side abutment, each of said wooden boards including two sides and a lengthwise direction, each of said sides having a height and said height being the smallest dimension of said wooden boards; and

subsequently revolvingly embedding at least three spaced apart pins transversely through said plurality of wooden boards, normal to said sides of said plurality of wooden boards, and normal to said lengthwise direction of said plurality of wooden boards, each of said at least three spaced helical pins having helical threads;

whereby the helical threads of said plurality of helical pins become anchored within each of said wooden boards thereby fixing and maintaining said wooden boards in relative position.

2. A method as in claim 1 further comprising aligning said plurality of wooden boards such that their ends form a substantially continuous surface before revolvingly embedding said at least three spaced helical pins.

3. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:

compressing said plurality of wooden boards transversely before revolvingly embedding said at least three spaced helical pins; and

subsequently removing the compression on said plurality of wooden boards.

1 4. A method as in claim 1 further comprising compressing said plurality of wooden
2 boards vertically before revolvingly embedding said at least three spaced helical pins so
3 that the top surfaces of said plurality of wooden boards are co-planar.

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5 5. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:

6 aligning said plurality of wooden boards laterally and longitudinally; and

7 drilling a plurality of lateral bores through said plurality of wooden boards before
8 revolvingly embedding said at least three spaced helical pins into said plurality of lateral
9 bores to facilitate said embedding step.

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11 6. A method of increasing the strength of a wooden scaffolding plank comprising the
12 steps of:

13 cutting said plank longitudinally into a plurality of wooden plank sections;

14 positioning said plurality of wooden plank sections in side to side parallel

15 abutment with the wood grains of said plurality of wooden plank sections having
16 alternating directions, each of said wooden plank sections including two sides and a
17 lengthwise direction, each of said sides having a height and said height being the smallest
18 dimension of said wooden plank sections; and

19 subsequently revolvingly embedding at least three spaced helical pins transversely
20 through said plurality of wooden plank sections, normal to said sides of said plurality of
21 wooden plank sections, and normal to said lengthwise direction of said plurality of
22 wooden plank sections, each of said at least three spaced helical pins having helical
23 threads;

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TOP SECRET

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11.

A composite scaffolding plank comprising
a plurality of wooden boards each having a lengthwise direction, two opposing
sides extending parallel to said lengthwise direction, and a height, said height being the
smallest dimension of said wooden boards;
said plurality of wooden boards positioned in side to side parallel abutment;
at least three spaced helical pins extending transversely through said plurality of
wooden boards, normal to said wooden board sides and normal to said lengthwise
direction; and
said helical pins pulling and holding said plurality of wooden boards together.

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12.

A composite scaffolding plank as in claim 11 wherein said plurality of wooden
boards comprise three of said wooden boards.

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13.

A composite scaffolding plank as in claim 11 wherein:
each of said plurality of wooden boards having a length and including a top and
two opposing ends,
said wooden board tops being co-planar;
said wooden board lengths being substantially equal; and
said wooden board ends forming a substantially continuous surface.

10 1 14. A composite scaffolding plank as in claim 11 further comprising:

2 said plurality of wooden boards having a transverse bore extending substantially
3 therethrough for each of said helical pins;

4 so that said transverse bore facilitates placement of said corresponding helical pin
5 in said plurality of wooden boards.

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